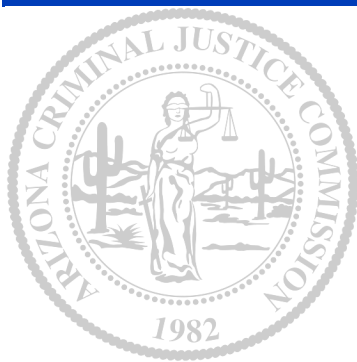


Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief



Arizona Youth Survey 2014

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

December 2014

Table 1: Percentage of Arizona Students Who Have Used Drugs in Their Lifetime

	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	31.5	52.9	67.0	46.2
Cigarettes	15.8	25.6	35.7	23.4
Marijuana	14.9	32.4	44.7	27.1
Inhalants	9.0	6.6	5.4	7.5
Hallucinogens	1.6	4.7	8.0	4.0
Cocaine	1.6	3.0	6.2	3.1
Sedatives	3.9	6.3	7.8	5.5
Methamphetamines	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.9
Stimulants	1.6	5.3	8.4	4.3
Ecstasy	2.1	4.4	7.4	4.1
Heroin	0.6	1.1	1.3	0.9
Steroids	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.7
Rx Pain Relievers	7.0	12.0	15.0	10.4
Rx Drugs	9.3	15.0	18.7	13.2
Over-the-Counter Drugs	5.8	8.2	9.6	7.4
Synthetic Drugs (Bath Salts, Spice, etc.)	2.3	4.2	6.4	3.8

Table 2: Percentage of Arizona Students Who Have Used Drugs in the Past 30-Days

	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	13.4	27.8	40.6	24.1
Cigarettes	5.7	10.1	15.7	9.4
Marijuana	6.9	16.8	22.9	13.6
Inhalants	3.1	1.3	0.9	2.0
Hallucinogens	0.7	1.7	2.4	1.4
Cocaine	0.6	0.9	2.1	1.0
Sedatives	1.7	2.6	2.7	2.2
Methamphetamines	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3
Stimulants	0.8	2.1	2.8	1.6
Ecstasy	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.2
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3
Steroids	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6
Rx Pain Relievers	3.8	5.4	5.5	4.7
Rx Drugs	4.9	7.1	8.0	6.3
Over-the-Counter Drugs	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.4
Synthetic Drugs (Bath Salts, Spice, etc.)	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8

Every two years, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) conducts a statewide survey to estimate the prevalence of drug use and other risky behaviors among Arizona 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth and to better understand the circumstances in which they live. The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) is a school-based survey that was successfully implemented in 2014 in 243 schools and in all 15 Arizona counties resulting in a final sample size of 48,244 youth. This ACJC data brief summarizes the primary findings from the 2014 AYS.

Substance Use Among Arizona Youth

Alcohol continues to be the most used substance among youth in Arizona across all grades, with 31.5 percent of 8th graders, 52.9 percent of 10th graders, and 67 percent of 12th graders reporting having consumed alcohol at least once in their lifetime. For substance use in the 30-days prior to taking the survey, alcohol was again the most widely used, with 13.4 percent of 8th graders, 27.8 percent of 10th graders, and 40.6 percent of 12th graders reporting use. As is evident with alcohol, rates of substance use among youth tend to be higher among older youth compared to younger youth (Tables 1 and 2). An exception to this pattern can be seen in rates of inhalant use where 8th grade youth have higher rates of lifetime and past 30 day use than 10th and 12th grade youth.

The five substances that have the highest percentages of lifetime and 30-day use among Arizona youth are alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, prescription pain relievers, and inhalants. To illustrate the relationship between substance use and gender, Chart 1 shows the lifetime and 30 day usage rates of the five highest used drugs by gender. The rates of substance use for males and females are generally similar to one another. Nevertheless, among the five substances that are used by the highest percentage of Arizona youth, females report slightly higher rates of use than males for alcohol, prescription pain relievers, and inhalants for both lifetime and past 30-day use.

Chart 1: Lifetime and 30-day ATOD use by Gender

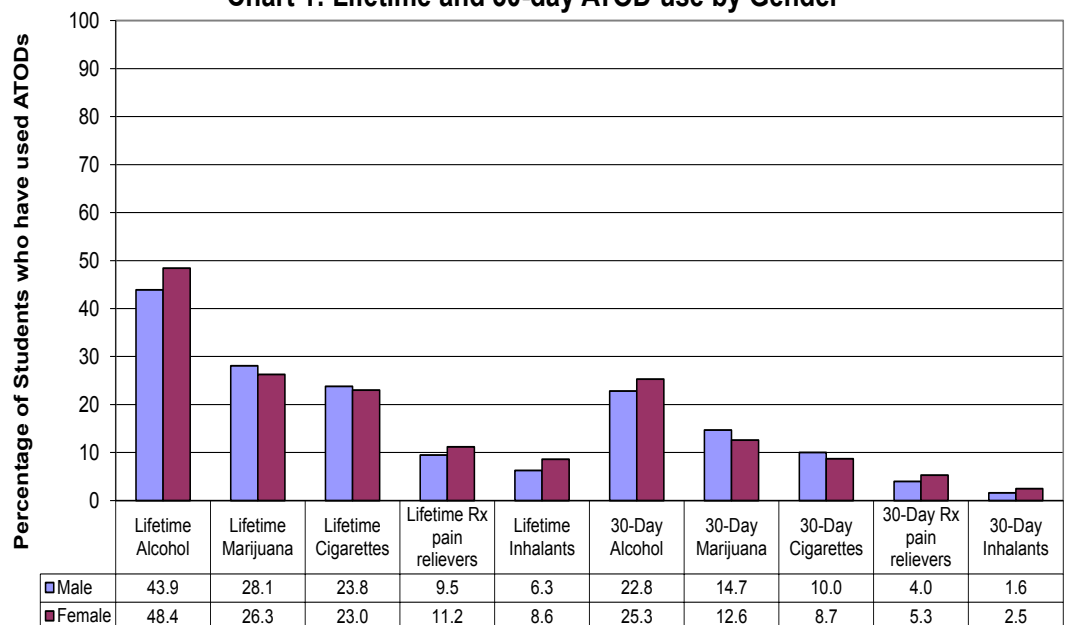
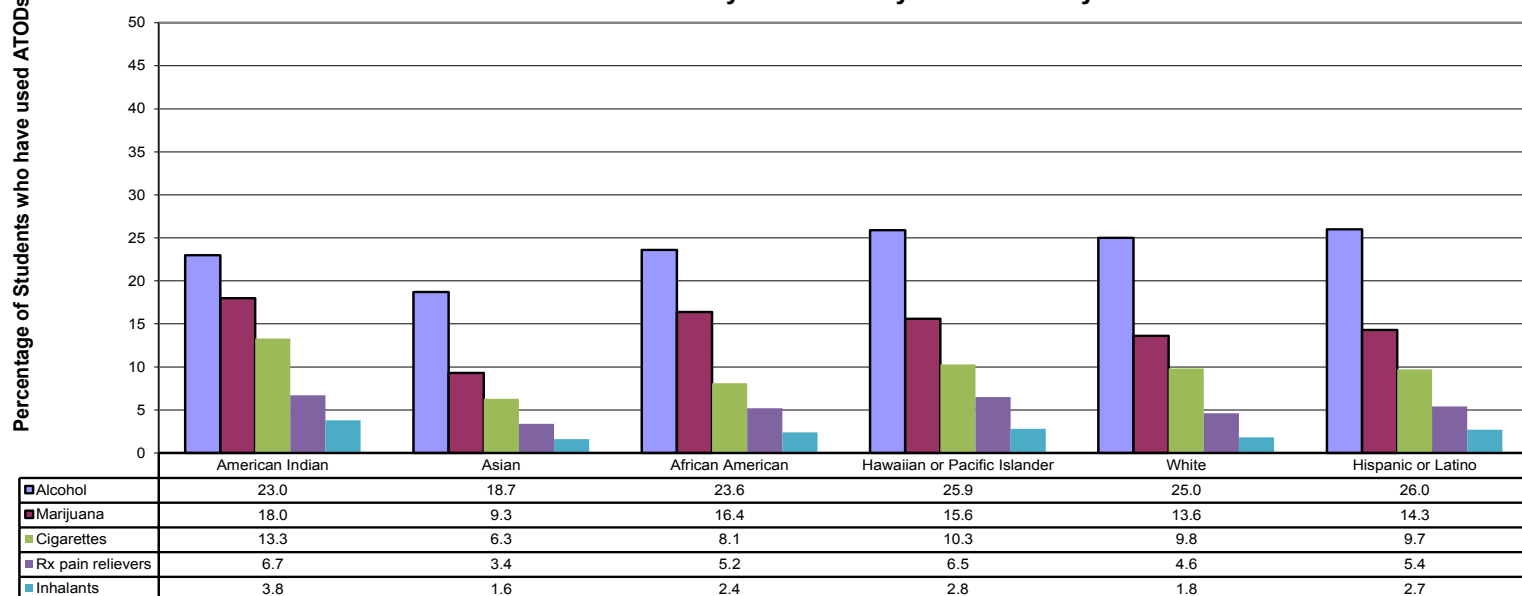


Chart 2: 30-day ATOD use by Race/Ethnicity



Substance Use by Race & Ethnicity

Examination of substance use breakdowns by race/ethnicity (Chart 2) shows that, like overall trends, alcohol is the most commonly used substance across all race/ethnicity categories, followed by marijuana, cigarettes, Rx drugs, and inhalants.

Antisocial Behavior

The 2014 AYS also asked students if they participated in several types of antisocial and delinquent behavior during the 12 months prior to taking the survey (Table 3). Approximately one out of every eight youth in 2014 reported engaging in binge drinking (i.e., five or more alcoholic drinks in a row) and a little over 13 percent reported going to school while drunk or high. Approximately one out of every nine 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students reported being hit, slapped, pushed, shoved, kicked or physically assaulted in another way by a teen dating partner.

Table 3: Percentage of Youth Engaged in Heavy Substance Use and Antisocial Behavior

	8th grade				10th grade				12th grade			
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2008	2010	2012	2014	2008	2010	2012	2014
Binge Drinking	13.1	12.4	8.7	6.3	22.4	21	17.5	14.4	30.2	29.2	26.5	22.7
Suspended From School	20.2	18.5	17	14.3	14.6	14.4	12.1	9.6	10.2	9.9	8.9	7.1
Drunk or High at School	12	12.8	10.4	8.4	20.5	21.8	19.8	16.5	22.2	22.1	21.6	19.8
Sold Illegal Drugs	4.6	5	4.5	3.6	9.8	10.6	9.8	7.7	10.4	10.8	10.8	8.9
Stolen a Vehicle	3.6	3.7	2.1	1.7	3.7	4.6	2.6	2.1	2.7	3.1	2	1.8
Been Arrested	7.5	7.1	5.5	5	9.2	9.9	7	6	8.7	8.7	7	5.9
Carried a Handgun	7.7	6.7	5.7	5.5	7.2	7.6	5.2	5.6	8.1	7.2	5.9	5.6

Table 4: Percentage of Students' Responses to School Safety & Bullying Questions

	2014		
	8th	10th	12th
In a Fight at School at Least Once in the Past Year	15	8.9	5.7
Did Not Go to School in the Past Month Because Felt Unsafe	9.9	6.1	4.3
Carried a Weapon to School at Least Once in the Past 30 Days	4.2	5.6	5.5
Been Bullied at Least Once in the Past Year	40	28.4	17
Been Harassed or Mistreated Online or Through Electronic Device in Past Year	30	25.4	18.7

School Safety

The 2014 AYS asked several questions about students' experiences related to school safety (Table 4). Nearly one of every three youth reported being bullied at least once in the 12 months prior to taking the survey and slightly more than one in four youth reported harassment online or through electronic devices. In addition, nearly one in six youth reported not feeling safe at their school, almost 4.9 percent of youth reported that they carried a gun to school at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey, and 11 percent of youth report being in a fight at school at least once in the prior year.

Risk and Protective Factors

In addition to questions about substance use, antisocial and delinquent activity, and school safety, the 2014 AYS also captures information on the risk and protective factors to which Arizona youth are exposed. The risk and protective factors included in the survey are categorized in four important areas of a youth's life: 1) community 2) family 3) school and 4) the peer and individual domains. An understanding of the risk and protective factors affecting youth informs prevention strategies in order to better target risk factors that are unacceptably high and protective factors that are unacceptably low.

This fact sheet was prepared by:
Megan Armstrong Research Analyst
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
1110 W. Washington, Suite 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(P) 602.364.1172
(F) 602.364.1175
Review full report at: www.azcjc.gov